



California Children's Services Program

Advisory Group Meeting
April 15, 2020



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For webinar link

- Send an email to CCSRedesign@dhcs.ca.gov

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- +1-415-655-0001
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- 499591006@dhcs.webex.com
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Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

Overview of State Response to COVID-19

California Children's Services Discussion Regarding COVID-19

Medi-Cal Rx Update

Open Discussion

Public Comments, Next Steps, and Upcoming Meetings



Welcome and Introductions

Bradley P. Gilbert, MD, MPP

Director

Department of Health Care Services



Overview of State Response to COVID-19

Department of Health Care Services



Federal and State Flexibilities

Services can be provided prior to SAR submission, as long as SAR is annotated “COVID related” when submitted. [Posted Guidance.](#)

Extend authorizations (for which a beneficiary has previously received prior authorization) through the end of the public health emergency

State Fair Hearing and Appeals timelines



Federal and State Flexibilities (*cont.*)

Provider enrollment

Provision of services in alternative settings

Dispensing or administration of off-label and investigational use of medication

Telehealth



Additional COVID-19 Resources

[DHCS COVID-19 Response](#)

[State COVID-19 Updates](#)

[Medi-Cal COVID-19 Response](#)

[Medicare Telemedicine Health
Care Provider Fact Sheet](#)



California Children's Services (CCS) Discussion Regarding COVID-19

**Department of Health Care Services
Co-presenting with
County and Advocacy Partners**



CCS and COVID-19

Pip Marks

- Family Voices of California

Mira Morton

- California Children's Hospitals

Laurie Soman

- Children's Regional Integrated Service System (CRISS)

Katie Schlageter

- Alameda County CCS



Medi-Cal Rx Update: The CCS Advisory Group (AG) Survey

Erica Bonnifield

Assistant Deputy Director, Health Care Benefits & Eligibility
Department of Health Care Services

Mike Wofford

Pharmacy Policy Chief, Pharmacy Benefits Division
Department of Health Care Services



DHCS' Continued Commitment to Collaboration

- DHCS has reviewed/analyzed and will continue to review/analyze the CCS AG survey responses and will:
 - Integrate appropriate information into the ongoing process, in conjunction with Magellan
 - Refine the system and operational requirements for Medi-Cal Rx processing, including for CCS & GHPP populations.
- As more information becomes available and policy approaches are further refined in this space, DHCS will:
 - Continue to reach out to engage members of this CCS Advisory Group for feedback and input to help inform Medi-Cal Rx implementation efforts.



The CCS AG Survey

As announced at the last California Children's Services (CCS) Advisory Group meeting on January 15, 2020, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) requests your assistance in completing this short survey to help gather additional information on and better assess potential impacts to the CCS population as a result of the transition to Medi-Cal Rx on January 1, 2021.

The CCS AG survey was open from February 10th to March 2nd

Six Survey Questions

1. Beneficiary Experience/Access
2. Beneficiary Experience/Standardize Policy
3. Claims Processing
4. Customer Service Center
5. Prior Authorization
6. Additional Feedback

12 Survey Respondents

- Children's' Hospitals
- Managed Care Plans
- Counties
- CRISS
- Family Representatives
- CCS Executive Committee



Preliminary Survey Results (1)

Survey Concerns	DHCS Response
DHCS should make CCS exempt, or otherwise exclude from “carve out”	DHCS, in response to the Governor’s directive, is consolidating pharmacy processing in Medi-Cal Rx. This state-of-the-art system, capable staff, and supportive resources provide a responsive pharmacy benefit for the clinical needs of the CCS population.
Magellan’s capability / availability (Need for skilled medical team, ability to prioritize CCS population concerns, and availability during non-standard hours)	Magellan staff are experts in pharmacy administration, with a history of successfully supporting low-income, uninsured, and underinsured beneficiaries. DHCS will continue to drive the policy utilized by Magellan, which will take into consideration specific CCS population concerns and needs.



Preliminary Survey Results (2)

Survey Concerns	DHCS Response
Access to existing pharmacies	Approximately 94% of California pharmacies are enrolled with Medi-Cal FFS Program. In addition, additional enrollment efforts are underway to close the remaining gap.
CCS Paneled Providers as prescribers	System will identify CCS Paneled Provider as prescriber during authorization process, when required by policy.
Partner with stakeholders (Develop recommendations, participate in readiness checks)	The Medi-Cal Rx team looks forward to continued interaction with CCS stakeholders, including participation in readiness checks.
Medically fragile population Requires many exceptions	The standardized Medi-Cal Rx pharmacy policy for all covered outpatient drugs for beneficiaries under age 21 will remain the same and take the special health care needs of the CCS population into consideration just as it does today.



Preliminary Survey Results (3)

Survey Concerns	DHCS Response
Non-standard dosing & off-label use	CCS case management, EPSDT coverage, sole source/limited source pharmacy providers (even when out of state) are all continuing to exist just as they are today.
Compounded & OTC medications (Topicals, oral solutions and suspensions, ophthalmics; over-the-counter medications; use of Botox; etc.)	All FDA-approved drugs are available based upon medical necessity, this includes OTC medications and those requiring compounding. DHCS will be training both the contractor and state adjudicators to assess the special needs of the CCS patient when adjudicating Prior Authorization requests.



Preliminary Survey Results (4)

Survey Concerns	DHCS Response
High-cost medications (For rare pediatric conditions)	Medi-Cal's existing pharmacy policy, inclusive of the Contract Drug List (CDL), considers "Essential Need" and allows for variances based upon individual patient requirements.
Out-of-state access to medications	No change from today's policy that allows for this access; All FDA-approved drugs available based upon medical necessity



Pharmacy Transition Period

DHCS, in partnership with Magellan Medicaid Administration, Inc. (Magellan), understands the importance of ensuring a smooth and effective transition to Medi-Cal Rx for beneficiaries.

To achieve this, close and ongoing collaboration between DHCS, Magellan, and Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans (MCPs) is critical. DHCS proposed to implement a multi-faceted pharmacy transition policy to help support this transition.

During this transition period, Magellan will provide system messaging, reporting and outreach to provide for a smooth transition to Medi-Cal Rx.



Additional Information

- For more information about Medi-Cal Rx, please visit DHCS' dedicated Medi-Cal Rx website: [Medi-Cal Rx: Transition](#)
- [Medi-Cal Rx Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQs) - additional guidance and clarification to Medi-Cal beneficiaries, providers, plan partners, and other interested parties
- For questions and/or comments regarding Medi-Cal Rx, DHCS invites CCS Stakeholder Advisory Committee participants to submit those via email to RxCarveOut@dhcs.ca.gov



Open Discussion

Bradley P. Gilbert, MD, MPP

Director

Department of Health Care Services



Public Comments, Next Steps, and Upcoming Meetings

Bradley P. Gilbert, MD, MPP

Director

Department of Health Care Services



CCS AG Meeting 1700 K Street

2020 Wednesday, July 8

Wednesday, October 7



Information and Questions

- For Whole Child Model information, please visit:
 - <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/ccs/Pages/CCSWholeChildModel.aspx>
- For CCS Advisory Group information, please visit:
 - <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/ccs/Pages/AdvisoryGroup.aspx>
- If you would like to be added to the DHCS CCS Interested Parties email list or if you have questions, please send them to CCSRedesign@dhcs.ca.gov